

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07 IO-13
L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 PRS-01
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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
USNMR SHAPE BE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

S E C R E T NATO 07205

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJECT: MBFR: ANOMALIES AND EQUIPMENT LIMITATIONS ON
SOVIET TANK ARMY

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1. AT JULY 25 SPC MEETING, NO DELEGATION HAD INSTRUCTIONS
REGARDING THE AHG'S REITERATION IN ITS JULY 22 REPORT
TO THE NAC OF ITS EARLIER REQUEST FOR NAC GUIDANCE ON HOW
TO DEAL WITH ANOMALIES, AND ON CLARIFICATION OF THE
WESTERN POSITION ON EQUIPMENT LIMITATIONS ON THE SOVIET
TANK ARMY.

2. FRG DELEGATION OFFICER (VON BUTLER) HAS INFORMED US
OF PRELIMINARY FRG VIEW ON THESE TWO ISSUES. HE STRESSED
THAT THIS VIEW WAS PRELIMINARY, SINCE AMBASSADOR RUTH IS
ON SUMMER VACATION. FRG CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT IT
WOULD BE PREMATURE TO MAKE A PROPOSAL TO THE EAST TO
RESOLVE THE ANOMALIES QUESTION UNTIL THERE IS FURTHER
PROGRESS IN THE OVERALL DATA DISCUSSION WITH THE EAST,

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SO THAT THE WEST CAN SEE WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT ON
OVERALL DISPARITIES OF PARTICULAR SOLUTIONS TO THE
ANOMALIES QUESTION. FRG WOULD BE WILLING TO CLARIFY TO
THE EAST THE WESTERN POSITION ON LIMITATION OF ARMAMENTS
OF THE SOVIET TANK ARMY, BUT BELIEVES THE WEST SHOULD NOT
TAKE THIS STEP IN ISOLATION. SINCE THIS WESTERN POSITION
SHOULD BE ATTRACTIVE TO THE EAST, THE WEST SHOULD SEEK TO

GET SOMETHING IN RETURN FOR IT.

3. OTHER DELEGATION OFFICERS WITH WHOM WE SPOKE ON JULY 25 AND 26 (UK, NETHERLANDS, BELGIUM) SAID THAT THEIR AUTHORITIES WERE STILL LOOKING AT THESE TWO ISSUES. THEY DID NOT EXPECT EARLY INSTRUCTIONS.

4. COMMENT: IN VIEW OF THE ONSET OF THE AUGUST VACATION PERIOD, ANY US PROPOSALS ON THESE TWO ISSUES MIGHT BE MOST EFFECTIVELY ADVANCED FIRST BY DISCUSSION WITH RUTH DURING HIS AUGUST 18-19 VISIT, AND THEN BY CIRCULATION TO OTHER DELEGATIONS THE FOLLOWING WEEK, WITH FIRST SPC MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 1. BENNETT

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